

R. A. CRAIN, B.S.C.



G. E. CRAIN, B.S.C.

# GEORGE A. CRAIN & SONS LIMITED

CONTRACTORS & ENGINEERS

VALUATING

555 Cambridge Street

232-1746

OTTAWA 1,  
ONTARIO

July 23/65

Mrs. P. French  
73 Grangemill Crescent.  
Don Mills, Ont.

Dear Maids, -

Your letter reached me Wednesday despite the strike and the fact it is eighteen years since we have lived at 285 Glenow. Isabel my sister of course is still there in one of the apartments.

I have all the letters that I wrote to my family during the first war and had a most interesting evening last night reading most of them. I can hardly believe that it was 48 years ago that I went to France as a 2nd Lieut with the English Army at the age of 18. Especially when I talk with 18 year olds to day.

I enclose a portion of two letters that have reference to Kathleen Parlow and were written in early January 1918. I was





# GEORGE A. CRAIG & SONS LIMITED

INCORPORATED IN CANADA  
1911

100 King Street West  
Toronto

General  
Manager

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the above named matter.

I am sorry to hear that you are not satisfied with the results of the investigation.

I am sure that the same will be given the most careful consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Yours truly,  
George A. Craig & Sons Limited

Very truly yours,  
George A. Craig & Sons Limited

By \_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager



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on my first English leave after four months of rather heavy fighting and just turned 19.

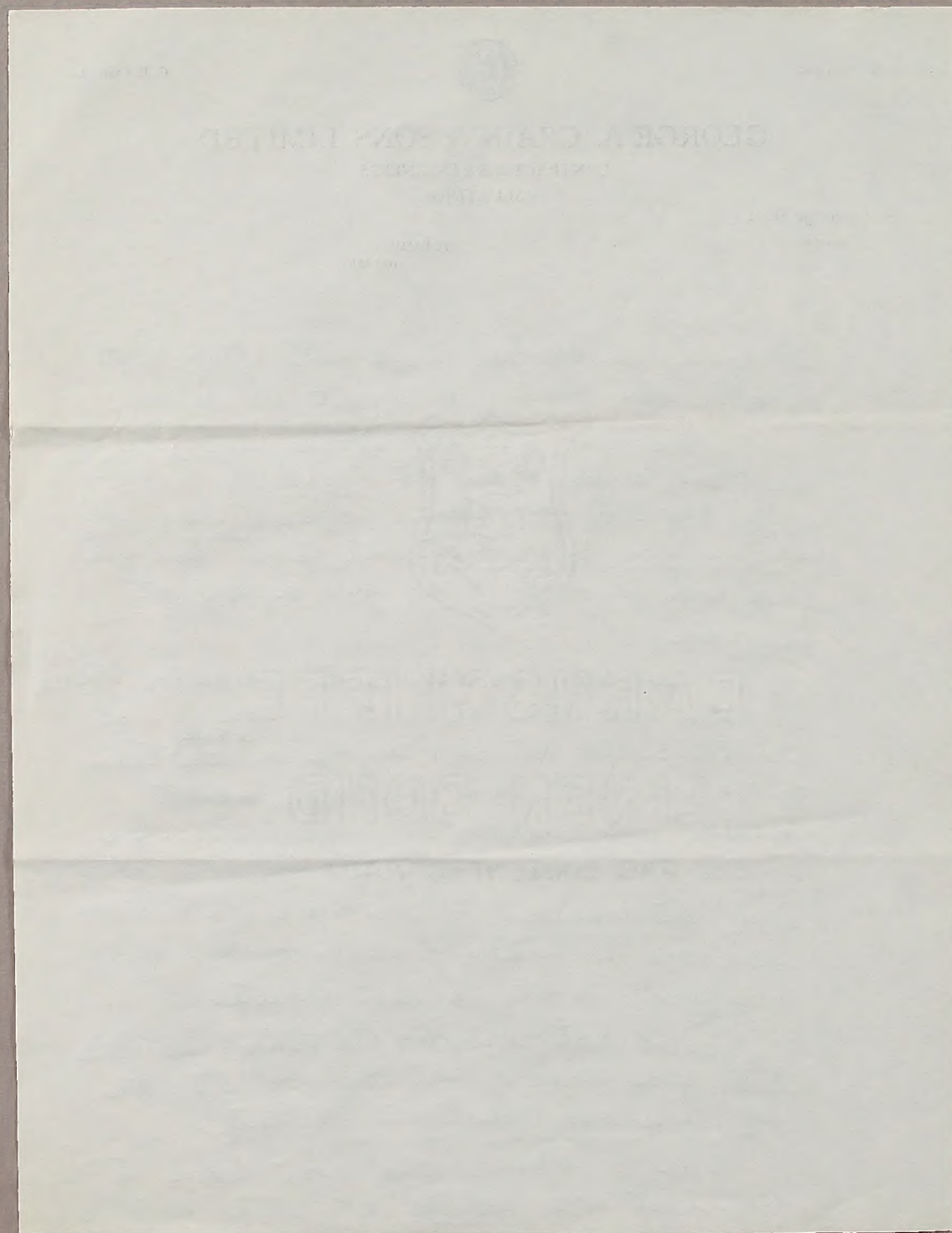
I recall now the large studio that they had built on to their house at Meldreth a few years before I was there. Kathleen was not playing any concerts at that time but she still had to spend seven hours a day at her violin.

The day we rode bicycles to Cambridge University her mother saw that she put her time in at the studio. We put our bicycles on <sup>at road</sup> the train on the way back from Cambridge, and at Kathleen was probably ten years older than I was and was good fun when her mother was not around. I am sure she would have come to London if ~~it~~ her mother had not said no at the last minute.

I do not remember the tennis episode that you speak of but do know that they had their own court at Meldreth.

When I received my next leave to London it was October 1918 and Kathleen







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and her mother had moved to one of the suburbs of London. It was possible that they may have had to sell or rent their place at Meldreth due to finances.

I got her address and remember telephoning and speaking to her mother who was very curt to me over the phone. One evening on my leave I went to their home (a modest Bungalow type) rang the bell. Mrs Parlow saw me through the window or the door. I spoke, told her who I was with no results. My impression at that time that she was either queer or was full of liquor or dope. That was my last contact in England with them.

You no doubt have Laurie Parlows address (80 Oak Lane Rochester, N.Y.). I think he probably knows a lot more but Kathleen Parlow during those years than I would.

(over)

I do not think there is any



more that I can add about the  
Parlours. I hope what I have  
written will help a little. I can  
thank you for an interesting evening  
last night reading all my war  
time experiences.

Yours Sincerely,

Ed. Crain

G.E. Crain +

Ottawa address.

G.E. Crain  
544 Piccadilly Ave.  
Ottawa, Ont.



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WAR BONDS  
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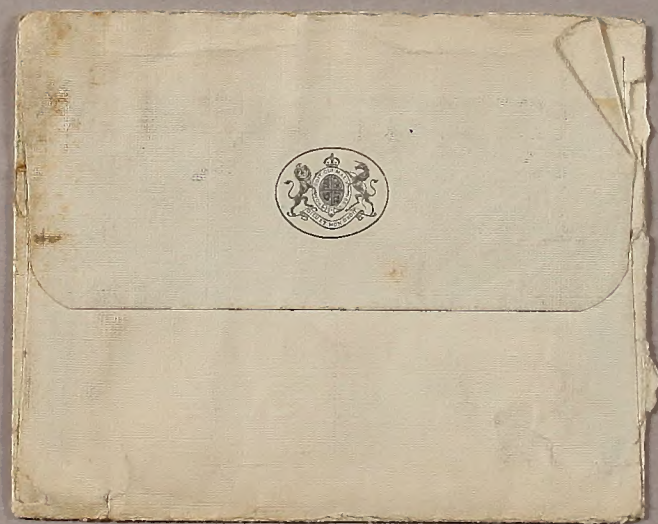
9 JAN 1884



Mr. G. A. Crain  
285 Clemow Ave  
Ottawa  
Ont.  
Canada

G. A. Crain







THE ROYAL CLUB FOR OFFICERS  
BEYOND THE SEAS,  
AT THE ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB,  
THE ROYAL OVERSEAS OFFICERS CLUB,  
AT THE R. A. C.  
PAUL MALL,  
LONDON S.W.1.

50 "OVERSEAS"  
LONDON

RECENT 5000.

1

Jan  
9/1/18

Dear Dad, -

I've started a letter to you about three times lately but somehow never was able to finish it. I'll do my best this time however.

I'm in the best of health and enjoying my leave very much indeed although it is slipping by altogether too quickly to suit me.

I met Charlie Fraser last Saturday night here at the club and had dinner with him and we went out to a show to-gether in the evening.

Early Sunday morning I went out to Muldrith and spent two days there with the Parlows. They certainly gave me a good time when I was there. Waited on me hand and foot.

They have a lovely <sup>big</sup> house at



his brother in the R.F.C. was missing. It's known now that he was killed. Poor Andy is feeling pretty badly over it. I saw quite a lot of his brother before I went to France. Andy had some exciting times at Cambrai. They lost all their guns and he was taken a prisoner but managed to shoot his escort somehow & hid in the cellar in Gouzacourt until the Germans retook the village. He certainly was lucky to get away. Lost every bit of his kit except what he had on him.

I met Charlie Fraser again last night at the Club here and we had dinner - went to see "Yes Uncle" which is a fine show. Funniest I've ever seen. Am going to meet him again to-day. They had a concert here in the R.F.C. yesterday afternoon and it was an awfully good one. Met some Canadian women there but forget their names.

I am pretty sure Wren is over here so I am going down to Witley camp to-morrow morning for a short time to see if I can't see him. The last letter I had from home was written Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> and they didn't say any thing about



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PALL MALL,  
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616 "OVERFRONT"  
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2

Meldruth and about five acres of  
fine land. I certainly enjoyed myself  
very much indeed there. Monday  
morning I road over to Cambridge  
with Kathleen and another girl who lives  
close to them. Had lunch there and saw  
all the College buildings etc. Its a  
wonderfully pretty place. Arrived back  
at Meldruth in time for tea. Kathleen  
& ~~her~~ mother were awfully good to me  
~~there~~. I had enough to eat ~~there~~ to last  
me about two weeks. A nice big fire in  
my bedroom, hot water soak in my bed  
at night & every thing you could wish  
for. Arrived back in town Tuesday  
noon. You must tell mother to write &  
thank them also.

I met about a hundred Ottawa  
fellows I knew yesterday. Every body  
seems to be in town on leave at present.  
I met Andy Gann yesterday and had  
lunch with him. He just arrived on leave  
Sunday. I think I told you before that



him them. I suppose there will be a lot of letters waiting for me when I get back to the battery. I could name you about a hundred Ottawa fellows who I've met here in the last few days. There must not be many left a home.

~~I~~ I heard from Kathleen Parlow that Lawrence is in for a commission. I hope he gets it all right as he has been out there long enough as a gunner now. It will be quite nice if he gets it as ~~she~~ will have five or six months in England.

We certainly had an exciting time at Cambrai especially on the 30<sup>th</sup> November the day of the big counterattack. We were as close as I ever want to be, of being prisoners but managed to keep firing and push him back thank goodness. The major was on leave at the time and there were only three of us, ~~sure~~, at the battery. We had to pull our guns out that night however and go back a bit. <sup>My friends were protesting that day I can tell you</sup> If you have a map at home, our position was just 200' behind Flesquieres.

At present we are in action just in front of Arras. Just went in the day after I went on leave. I believe it's a fairly quiet spot. I sincerely hope so anyway.

Food is certainly getting scarcer in this country.



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THE ROYAL CLUB FOR OFFICERS  
BEYOND THE SEAS,  
AT THE ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB,  
PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

13/1/18

Dear Dad.

Just a few lines to  
let you know. I am well  
and still enjoying my  
leave very much. Its a  
good thing its coming to a  
close however as I am  
just about broke.

I have been able to buy  
myself a watch, British  
warm and boots and a  
few other things so I ought  
to be O.K. for a time. It  
certainly runs away with your  
money. You have no idea  
how dear things are here.  
A pair of decent ankle boots



costs from £2-10 to £3.  
and other things are very  
much the same.

Nathleen Parlow and a  
friend of hers were to have  
come to town Saturday to  
go to a show with me but  
couldn't at the last minute.  
I met Charlie Fraser again  
last night and was with  
him all to-day. He just  
left a few minutes ago for  
Woolich. Last night we went  
to a dance at some Mrs  
Lawson's. Had quite a good  
time. Left the dance early and  
went to the covey and listened  
to the coon band.

Have just this minute run  
into young Desalaberry of Ottawa  
+ Hilpatich, both in my class  
at R.M.C. I certainly was awfully  
also met Pepler of Toronto. <sup>He is just leaving</sup> for dance